

by the different boats of the Continental Shipping Companies, would tend to strengthen the opinion that the specimen is an escaped cage-bird, but unless it has moulted since it obtained its freedom, the perfect condition of plumage it is in points to the contrary.

The specimen has been mounted and placed in the Collection, where it will be available for future reference; but for want of further proof it is undesirable at present to include it in the Australian avifauna.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF PARRAKEET,
OF THE GENUS *PLATYCERCUS*, FROM NORTH-WEST
AUSTRALIA.

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PLATYCERCUS OCCIDENTALIS, *sp. n.*

Adult female.—Across the forehead a faint indication of a narrow orange-brown band; head and hind neck dull brownish-black, the tips of the feathers above the forehead slightly tinged with green, cheeks light blue passing into bluish-green on the outer and lower sides of the throat; a narrow collar on the lower nape, the lower portion of the breast, and abdomen to the vent, bright lemon-yellow; chest, back, wings, scapulars and their coverts, and the outer sides of the thighs, verditer-green; the median portion of the apical half of the feathers of the chest slightly tinged with yellow; rump, upper, and under tail coverts, light verditer-green, the feathers of the latter having a faint yellowish tinge; primaries black, the apical half of the outer webs of the outermost series grey, the basal half blue; the remainder blue on their outer webs, black at the tips; secondaries, black on their inner webs, verditer-green on the outer, the apical half of the inner webs of the last inner secondaries edged and slightly tipped with pale fulvous-brown; primary-coverts, blue on their outer webs, black on the inner; lesser, median, and greater wing-coverts, verditer-green, the outermost feathers of the latter passing into a pale verdigris-green; under surface of the wings and under

primary-coverts, black; margins of the shoulders, under wing-coverts and axillaries, pale verditer-blue; two central tail-feathers green, the apical half of the outer webs margined with blue, the next on either side, green, the margins of their inner webs black, the apical half of the outer webs, blue, tipped with bluish-white; the remainder of the feathers green at the base, margined with black on their inner webs, and changing into blue on their outer webs and bluish-white on the apical half of the feathers, the green decreasing and the blue and bluish-white increasing towards the lateral feathers, which are but slightly tinged with green at their base; under surface of the two central tail feathers black, shaded with green on their outer and inner webs for two-thirds of their length, the next on either side black, the margins of the outer webs and the tips bluish-white; the remainder black at the base, light blue on the apical half; bill, bluish-horn colour, lighter at the tip; feet, dark brown. Total length of skin 14.5 inches; wing 6.5 inch; outer tail feathers 4.2 inch; central tail feathers 8.45 inch; bill from forehead 0.9 inch; from nostril 0.7 inch; tarsus 0.8 inch; mid-toe 0.9 inch.

Habitat.—Roeburne, North-west Australia.

Type.—In Australian Museum, Sydney.

Note.—When held in certain lights, the two central tail feathers show numerous bronze cross-bars. Another specimen has the apical half of the outermost secondaries tinged with blue, and the two central tail feathers tipped with black.

Remarks.—Two specimens were obtained by Mr. E. H. Saunders at Karratha Station, thirty-six miles S. W. of Roeburne, North-west Australia, early in 1889, and were referred to by me at the September meeting of the Linnean Society of New South Wales in the same year, as immature specimens of *Platycercus zonarius*, but upon a recent examination of a series of skins of the latter species in different stages of maturity, at present in the Reference Collection, as well as those in the Macleayan Museum at the University, and Dobroyde Collection, I find that the specimens from North-west Australia are quite distinct.

In the disposition of its markings *P. occidentalis* resembles *P. zonarius*, but it differs from that species in having light blue instead of dark blue cheeks; in the greater extent of the conspicuous lemon-yellow of the lower portion of the breast and the whole of the abdomen, and which extends as far as the vent, instead of the deep gamboge-yellow of the centre of the abdomen only; in the verditer-green of the chest, back, wings, scapulars and inter-scapular region, instead of dark green, and in the absence of the narrow black band immediately below the collar.